LANDS AND FORESTS
TECHNICAL NOTE

1988 NOVA SCOTIA MOOSE SEASON

Art Patton

The 1988 Nova Scotia moose hunting season was held from October 3 through October 7. Two hundred licenses were selected on the basis of a lottery-type draw from more than 13,000 applications.

Most of the hunting effort took place on the Cape Breton Highlands, within Victoria and Inverness counties.

Hunter success has been calculated to be 91.5%, with 183 of the 200 hunters registering a moose. Of the 183 moose registered, 138 (75%) were males. Of the total there were 32 male and 21 female yearlings, and 43 male and 13 female 2 1/2 year-olds registered (See Table 1). Only two calves were registered this year.

Mean weight of moose registered in each sex and age class is provided in Table 2. Table 3 provides mean antler measurement data by age class. Total antler palm area was determined by multiplying greatest length by greatest width of the primary palm on each antler (Figure 1), then adding both to get total palm area for each moose. Table 3 also provides the mean total antler palm area per age class.

Table 4, *Recreational Hunting Effort and Expenses (Successful Hunters)*, shows a total of 2426.7 hunting hours. The average hunting party size was 3.7 persons per license. By Nova Scotia law, only the license holder can shoot a moose—other party members are along for the hunt. Total recreation hours were calculated for successful parties only, using hours reported by successful hunters and party size. Hunters estimated their expenses at time of registering their moose. Estimates do not include post-hunt expenses such as meat cutting or taxidermy.

Additional information obtained from registrations indicated that most hunters (79%) took the first moose they had a reasonable chance to shoot. Since male moose comprised 75% of the harvest, this indicates a high vulnerability of males. Twenty-one percent said they attempted to call their moose and 7% said they were calling when they sighted their moose. When successful hunters first sighted their moose, 47.3% reported being in a vehicle while 45.6% said they were in the woods.

As a matter of interest, 42.6% of those registering moose said they had at least one ATV with them.

After three successive years, the Highlands moose hunt is still marked by high hunter success and a harvest dominated by bulls.

Table 1. *Sex and Age (Legal Moose Kill, Nova Scotia—1988)*

Age	Male	Female	Total
Calf	0	2	2
Yearling	32	21	53
2.5	43	13	56
3.5	23	5	28
4.5	14	2	16
5.5 - 6.5	11	2	13
7.5 - 8.5	3	0	3
9.5 - 10.5	1	0	1
11.5 - 13.5	4	0	4
14.5 - 16.5	0	0	0
Unknown	7	0	7
Total	**138**	**45**	**183**

Table 2. *Average Weight of Moose (Legal Kill, Nova Scotia—1988) (n) = Sample Size*

Age	Male n	Male (kg)	Female n	Female (kg)
Calf		0	(2)	134
Yearling	(31)	243	(21)	232
2.5	(42)	323	(13)	254
3.5	(22)	360	(5)	283
4.5	(13)	364	(2)	300
5.6 - 6.5	(11)	403	(2)	321
7.5 - 8.5	(3)	411		0
9.5 - 10.5	(1)	431		0
11.5 - 13.5	(4)	420		0
14.5 - 16.5		0		0
Unknown	(7)	328		0

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Figure 1
Determining Antler Palm Area

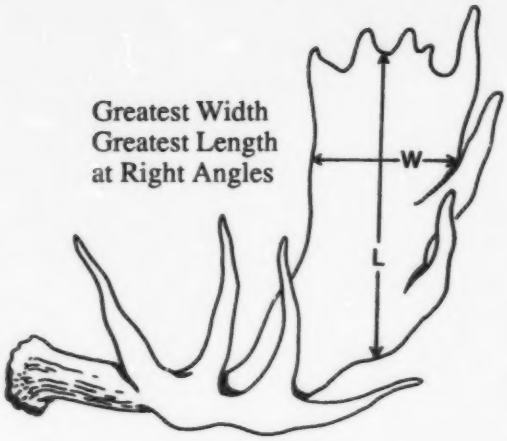

Table 3. *Mean Antler Measurements by Age Class (Moose, Nova Scotia—1988)*

Age Class	Number In Class	Points	Palm Area (cm^2)	Beam Dia. (mm)	Spread (cm)
Calf	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Yearling	32	7	273.55	35	58.90
2.5	43	13	1 384.96	48	97.00
3.5	23	17	2 347.87	53	113.80
4.5	14	19	2 761.35	57	124.30
5.5-6.5	11	20	2 928.70	61	133.40
7.5-8.5	3	21	2 428.77	67	122.40
9.5-10.5	1	25	4 354.83	62	146.10
11.5-13.5	4	23	2 984.45	61	124.00
14.5-16.5	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Unknown	7	15	2 547.29	55	111.60

Table 4. *Recreational Moose Hunting Effort and Expenses (Successful Hunters—1988)*

	Males	Females	Total	Average
Hours Hunted	1,827.70	599.00	2,426.70	-
Hours per Moose	13.24	13.31	-	13.26
Average Hunting Party Size	3.70	3.72	-	3.70
Recreational Hours per Moose	49.03	49.57	-	49.16
Expenses	$87,535	$35,475	$123,010	-
Expenditures per Moose	$634.31	$788.33	-	$672.18

1988 LYNX REPORT

This year for the first time we gathered information on lynx as part of the moose kill registration process. The Cape Breton Highlands are believed to be the last stronghold of our remnant lynx (*Felis lynx*) population. We hope that further cooperative efforts of this kind will provide a better estimate of the status of this protected furbearer.

Hunters who answered the question regarding lynx sightings represented at total of 8984.2 person-hours. Sixteen parties reported seeing lynx. Of these, 13 saw 1 lynx, 2 parties saw 2, and 1 party saw 3 of the large cats. On average, 449.2 person-hours were reported for each lynx sighting.

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